

What is claimed is:

1. A rongeur for cutting bone or cartilage, comprising:
  - a shaft terminating in a foot plate;
  - a carrier member in slidable relationship to said shaft, said carrier member having a leading end, a trailing end opposite said leading end, and an open interior, said leading end having an opening in communication with said open interior;
  - a tubular member configured to be removably inserted at least in part into said open interior of said carrier, said tubular member having an open end with a cutting edge adapted to contact said foot plate and cut pieces of bone or cartilage, said tubular member having a storage area proximate said cutting edge in communication with said open end, said storage area configured to collect and store at least one cut piece of bone or cartilage, said shaft being in slidable relationship with said carrier member without passing through said tubular member; and
  - a mechanism for providing reciprocal motion of said carrier member and said shaft relative to one another.
2. The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said carrier member is removably coupled to at least a portion of said shaft.
3. The rongeur of claim 2, further comprising a lock for locking said carrier member to at least a portion of said shaft.
4. The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said storage area increases in cross sectional area at least in part from said leading end to said trailing end of said carrier member.
5. The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said tubular member includes a second opening in communication with said storage area, said second opening adapted to be closed by a portion of said rongeur when in use.
6. The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said carrier member includes at least a portion thereof that is replaceable.
7. The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said tubular member is disposable.

8. The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said tubular member is configured to store multiple cut pieces of bone or cartilage.
9. The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said mechanism includes a handle for providing said reciprocal motion of said carrier member and said shaft relative to one another.
10. The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said carrier member is configured to be operatively coupled to at least one of a portion of said shaft and said mechanism.
11. The rongeur of claim 10, wherein said carrier member is configured to hold the cut pieces of bone or cartilage upon uncoupling from at least one of said shaft and said mechanism.
12. The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said carrier member is configured to prevent any of the cut pieces of bone or cartilage stored in said storage area from being ejected from said storage area while said rongeur is being used to cut the bone or cartilage.
13. The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said tubular member comprises a metal.
14. The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said tubular member comprises a plastic material.
15. A method for cutting bone or cartilage, the method comprising the steps of:
  - providing a rongeur having a shaft with a mid-longitudinal axis, a foot plate extending from the shaft, and a storage member in moveable relationship to the shaft, the storage member having a cutting edge and a storage area adapted to store multiple cuts of bone or cartilage;
  - positioning the rongeur at a site where the bone or cartilage is to be cut;
  - cutting bone or cartilage with the rongeur to produce multiple cut pieces of bone or cartilage;
  - storing the cut pieces of bone or cartilage in the storage area of the storage member;
  - moving the storage member away from the mid-longitudinal axis of the shaft in a direction generally radial to the mid-longitudinal axis while the cut pieces of bone or cartilage are still in the storage area; and
  - then removing the cut pieces of bone or cartilage from the storage area of

the storage member.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of disposing the storage member.
17. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of engaging a second storage member with the shaft.
18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of locking the second storage member to the shaft.
19. The method of claim 15, wherein the storage area increases in cross sectional area from one end of the storage member to another end of the storage member.
20. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of cutting includes reciprocating the storage member relative to the shaft to cut the bone or cartilage.